

SYPHILIS

Syphilis is a contagious sexually transmitted disease caused by the spirochete *Treponema pallidum*. The disease, which may be acute or chronic, is characterized clinically by a primary lesion (chancre), a secondary eruption involving skin and mucous membranes, long periods of latency, and late lesions of skin, bone, viscera, the central nervous system, and the cardiovascular system. Fetal infection occurs with high frequency in untreated early infections of pregnant women. Transmission occurs by direct contact with infectious exudates during sexual contact. Transmission may occur through blood transfusion if the donor is in the early stages of the disease. Fetal infection occurs through placental transfer or at delivery.

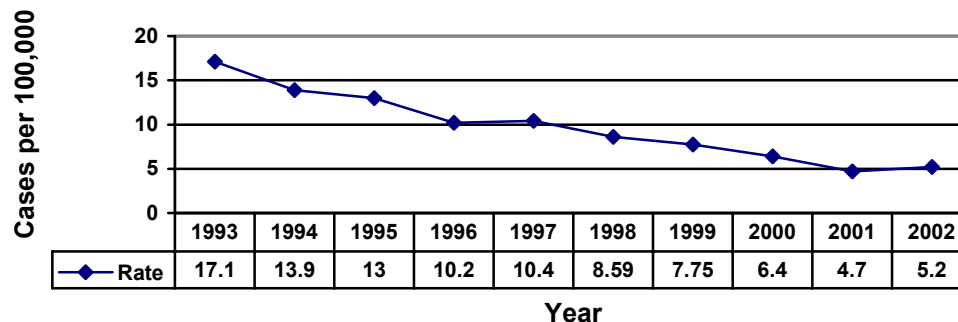
Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Laboratory confirmation of *T.pallidum* by darkfield microscopy, by reactive serology, or by clinical manifestations of acquired infection.

Epidemiology

Kentucky 2002	Rate per 100,000	U.S. Rate (2001) per 100,000
Cases 212	5.2	11.45
Cases by Gender		Cases by Race
Female 98	4.7	African/American 37.7
Male 114	5.7	Hispanics 17.0
		Caucasian 1.9

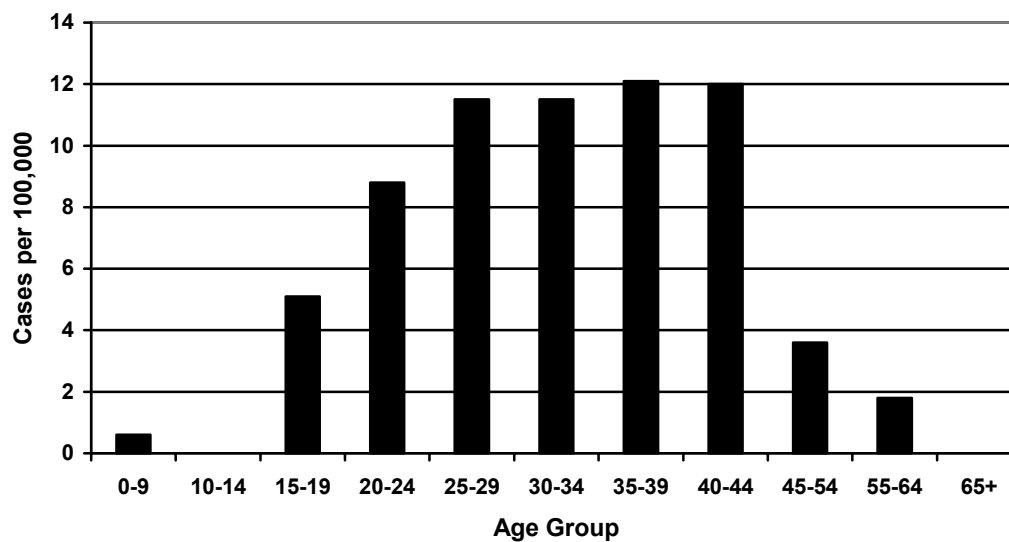
**Syphilis Incidence, Kentucky
1993-2002**



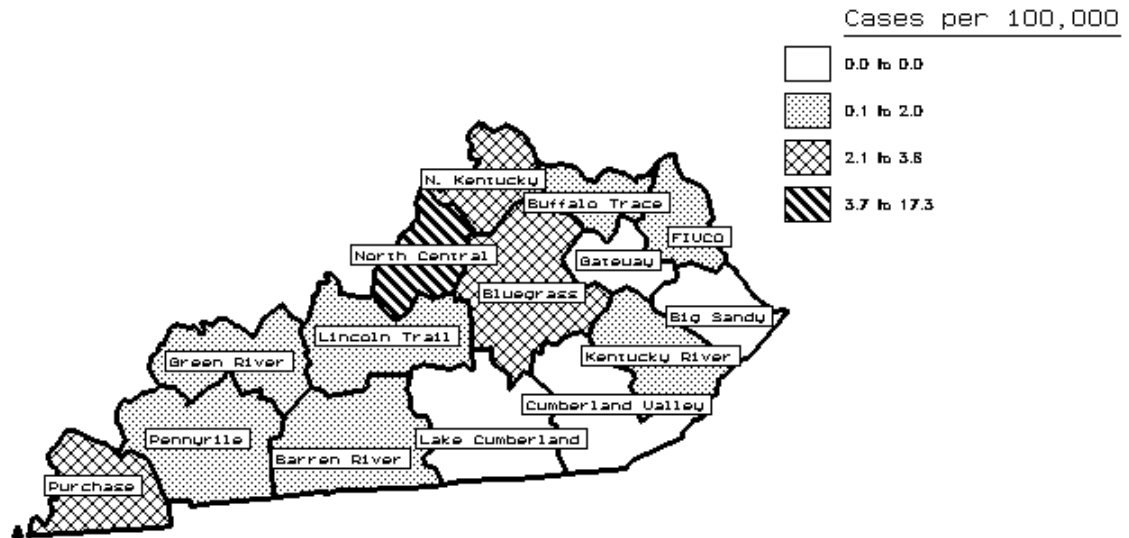
Syphilis is defined by distinct stages. Primary, secondary, and early latent syphilis are considered early syphilis, while late latent and late syphilis are defined as syphilis of greater than one year's duration. Congenital syphilis is acquired in utero.

Cases	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Primary	65	55	44	41	34	36	18	29
Secondary	120	99	91	65	67	49	30	59
Early Latent	166	126	122	101	81	62	38	49
Total Early	351	280	257	207	182	147	86	137
Late Latent/late	141	113	141	127	120	103	104	72
Congenital	8	2	6	4	3	3	1	3
Total Cases	500	395	404	338	305	253	191	212

**Syphilis, Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky
2002**



Syphilis by District, Kentucky Annual Incidence 2002



The North Central District reported the highest rate of 17.3 cases per 100,000 and the Purchase District followed with 3.6 cases per 100,000.

Jefferson County, in the North Central District, has the largest urban population in the state. In 2002, Jefferson County reported 20.3 cases of Syphilis per 100,000, a 40.9% increase in rate from the previous year.

District	Rate per 100,000
Purchase	3.6
Pennyrile	1.4
Green River	0.5
Barren River	1.6
Lincoln Trail	2.0
North Central	17.3
Northern Kentucky	3.3
Buffalo Trace	1.8
Gateway	0.0
Fivco	1.5
Big Sandy	0.0
Kentucky River	0.8
Cumberland Valley	0.0
Lake Cumberland	0.0
Bluegrass	3.5